

Green River Flows to Increase to Lower Reservoir Behind Howard Hanson Dam
Contact: Public Affairs, 206-764-3750

Jan. 13, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

SEATTLE – During a post-flood assessment, engineers at Howard Hanson Dam have discovered a depression at Howard Hanson Dam, requiring the reservoir pool be brought down in order to investigate further.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, which operates and maintains the dam along the Green River, will begin releasing water from the dam **immediately**.

During the recent flood event, Howard Hanson Dam held flood waters back to a record pool level; however outflow from the dam currently is 5,300 cubic feet per second and will be raised to 8,000 cfs, making flows at Auburn about 10,500 cfs. During the peak of the recent flooding, flows at Auburn were 11,200 cfs.

The current reservoir pool level is 1,173 feet and the Corps needs to bring it down to 1,150 feet; therefore, the higher river flows at Auburn can be expected to last until approximately Friday.

Emergency managers with King County have been briefed and this is not considered an imminent emergency.

###